

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W  
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P R 230930Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4430

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 11235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: DEATH OF GEN. KRIT SIWARA

REF: STATE 97938

1. GEN KRIT SIWARA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE-DESIGNATE, DIED  
AT 0730 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 23 FROM COMPLICATIONS OF A  
HEART ATTACK SUFFERED ON APRIL 16.

2. THE SITUATION IS STILL CONFUSED, BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GEN. THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA,  
A DEMOCRAT MP FROM BANGKOK, WILL BE NAMED ACTING MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE PENDING FINAL ALLOCATION OF THIS PORTFOLIO.

3. WITH THE CABINET ALREADY IN PLACE, THAWIT'S APPOINTMENT  
WOULD BE THE MOST LOGICAL ACTION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
TAKE. IT WOULD NOT UPSET THE AGREED UPON DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIOS BY PARTIES AND WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR  
EXTENSIVE RENEGOTIATIONS.

4. A POSSIBLE BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BY MG PRAMAN  
ADIREKSAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE KHUKRIT CABINET  
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN THE PRESENT CABINET MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. PRAMAN'S SON, HOWEVER, TOLD AN  
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EMBOFF ON APRIL 23 THAT PRAMAN WOULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE A

BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD AN  
IMPORTANT PORTFOLIO IN A CABINET THAT WAS ALREADY IN  
PLACE.

5. IF PRAMAN DOES UTIMATELY MAKE A BID, IT WOULD  
REOPEN THE INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DEMOCRAT  
PARTY ITSELF, AND GOAD SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY LEADERS TO  
MAKE ADDITIONAL DEMANDS, ESPECIALLY IF THE DEMOCRATS  
APPEARED WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE PRAMAN'S DEMAND. CERTAIN  
TOP LEADERS IN THE MILITARY WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE UNHAPPY  
WITH PRAMAN AS DEFENSE MINISTER, MORE SO IN LIGHT OF HIS  
RECENT PROMOTION OF CHALAT HIRANYASIRI TO BE DEPUTY  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY. A LIKE  
SITUATION WOULD OCCUR IF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAWI CHUNL-  
ASAP SHOULD MAKE A BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO, WHICH HE  
HAD HELD IN 1973-74.

6. THE SITUATION IS TOO CONFUSED AT THIS TIME ACCURATELY  
TO SEE THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF KRIT'S DEATH.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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